(b) if so, whether Government have reiterated that an autonomous broadcasting regulator like FCC in US and OFCom in UK would be in place soon;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has sent its recommendations on FM-2 guidelines to the Cabinet;

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken;

(e) whether any legislation is being framed in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The Government has since formulated a policy for expansion of FM radio broadcasting (Phase II) under private sector which has been notified on 13th July, 2005. The Government has recently allowed facsimile edition of foreign newspapers, in whole or in part(s), to be published in India, subject to certain conditions. However, publication of Indian edition of foreign newspapers in India continues to be prohibited.

(b) The government is contemplating the establishment of an autonomous Authority to regulate content on TV channels. A draft Bill is under preparation. In this regard, institutions such as FCC and OFCom are being studied with interest.

(e) and (f) No fresh legislation is required for implementing the FM Phase- II policy.

FDI in print media

733. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have okayed 100 percent FDI in the non-news publications sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have worked out certain norms for this 100 per cent FDI to be followed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The detailed guidelines issued by the Government in this regard are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Guidelines for 100 per cent FDI in non-news publications sector

Guidelines for

(i) Publication of Indian Editions of ForeignTechnical/Scientific/ Speciality Magazines/Journals/Periodicals; and

(ii) Foreign Investment in Indian Entities Publishing Scientific/Technical/Speciality Magazines/Journals/Periodicals.

PREAMBLE

The Union Government has decided to allow:

(i) Publication of Indian editions of foreign scientific, technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals; and

(ii) Foreign investment upto 100% in Indian entities publishing scientific/technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/ journals.

1. **Application**

(i) An application shall be made to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in the prescribed format to determine the nature of contents of the publication.

(ii) Application fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand only) shall have to be deposited through a Demand Draft in favour of the Pay & Accounts Officer, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, payable at New Delhi.

2. **Processing**

(i) The application shall be processed by the Ministry of I&B, after due inter-Ministerial consultations, to decide whether the

proposed publication is covered under the category of scientific, technical or speciality magazine/periodical/journal. Representatives of the concerned Ministries/specialist bodies and language experts, as found necessary will be associated in this task. In appropriate cases, the Ministry of I&B will issue:

(a) An approval, subject to compliance with the provisions of the Press and Registration of Books Act and Rules made thereunder for publication of the foreign journal; or

(b) A No Objection Certificate (NOC) for foreign investment, a copy of which would be sent to RNI/SIA/RBI and the applicant.

(ii) Determination of category assigned to the publication(s) is liable for review by the Ministry of I&B if the contents of the publication(s) undergo change at a later date.

(iii) (a) In cases where both FDI and FII investment is envisaged, the applicant may approach the FIPB/RBI for clearance after obtaining the No Objection Certificate from the Ministry of I&B.

(b) In cases involving only portfolio investment, the applicant may approach the Reserve Bank of India, for further clearance, if any after obtaining the No Objection Certificate from the Ministry of I&B.

(c) The Ministry of I&B will keep the Secretariat for Industrial Assistance and the Reserve Bank of India informed of the FDI projected by the Company and the balance permissible foreign investment on the portfolio investment route, while communicating the No Objection.

3. **Title of the Publication**

Title verification shall continue to be done by the Press Registrar as per existing procedure.

4. **Foreign Investment**

(i) Total foreign investment upto 100% may be allowed. Guidelines of the Ministry of Finance on FDI and portfolio investment would apply.

(ii) All cases involving Foreign Investment shall be handled by the prescribed agencies, *viz.* FDI on the government approval route through the mechanism of the FIPB and portfolio investment by the RBI.

Tata Star TV for DTH venture

734. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has given its approval to Tata-star TVs DTH venture and a letter of intent has also been issued to start its operation;

(b) the details of the guidelines under which the approval to (a) above has been granted;

(c) whether any consultations with the Ministries concerned have been held;

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) M/s Space TV Private Limited, a Joint Venture of M/s Tata Sons and M/s Network Digital Distribution Services FZ-LLC (NDDS) were issued a Letter of Intent on 17.5.2005 to enable the Applicant Company to complete the formalities required before grant of License to start DTH service operations.

(b) The Letter of Intent (LoI) has been issued under the guidelines for operating DTH Services in India. These are available on this Ministry' s website (www.mib.nic.in)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Ministries of Company Affairs, Home Affairs and Finance and Department of Space were consulted.

(e) The Applicant Company *viz.* M/s Space TV Pvt. Ltd. altered their shareholders' agreement between the joint venture partners to ensure full compliance with DTH guidelines.